

ANNEX O

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A. PURPOSE

To provide guidance and administration of the State's resources during a hazardous materials (HAZMAT) incident as well as to provide protection of the citizens and environment of the State.

B. SITUATION

1. No single agency within the State is equipped physically or technologically to cope with the possibilities of a serious hazardous materials incident. The local fire departments, the Division of Highways (DOH), and the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) can handle small HAZMAT incidents by themselves.
2. Facilities subject to the requirements of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III Section 303(c) are listed in the respective individual County Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) and/or their Local Emergency Planning Committee's (LEPC) Plan.
3. Identification of routes that may be used for the transportation of hazardous materials may be found in the Basic Plan of the respective County Emergency Operations Plans.

C. ASSUMPTIONS

1. No area within the State of West Virginia is without risk of being involved in a hazardous materials incident to some degree.
2. Transportation of hazardous materials will be through and within the state on the highway or rail system, by water, and over the state by air routes. These conveyances all present the potential for a hazardous materials emergency.
3. A number of special facilities, such as hospitals, elderly care facilities, schools, jails, etc., are all within the danger zones of possible hazardous materials incidents.
4. There are numerous creeks, streams and rivers, plus a hilly topography that could result in their contamination by a HAZMAT incident.

5. Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) are responsible for preparing the HAZMAT Annex to the county's EOP for the protection of their citizens and the environment within their jurisdiction.
6. The possibility of an incident escalating into other areas has been demonstrated in the past.
7. The wide variation between different substances classed as hazardous materials creates a situation where information must often be collected from varied sources, such as: Chemtrec, the shippers of the substance(s), local chemical companies and their HAZMAT teams, Coast Guard Strike teams, USEPA, private HAZMAT firms, etc.
8. The training and equipment necessary to maintain a HAZMAT response capability is complex and expensive.

D. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. General
 - a. Our complex, technological society is dependent on many substances used in our manufacturing processes. These substances, as classified by the DOT and EPA, are referred to as hazardous materials.
 - b. Used in a controlled, safe manner, millions of gallons/pounds of these substances are handled daily. It is when these substances escape their controlled condition and impinge on the environment that a hazardous materials incident occurs.
 - c. Hazardous materials can do serious damage to the environment and its inhabitants. There may be complex reactions that can take place when an attempt is made to curtail an incident. This requires that hazardous material incidents be approached as a "combined response" operation. A combined response can be defined as a response incorporating many informational and equipment/manpower sources, including both governmental and private entities.
 - d. The dangers involved in attempting to bring a hazardous materials incident to an end without adequate training, equipment, and logistical support are numerous and obvious. A jurisdiction unable to support an adequate program needs to investigate such options as mutual aid with other jurisdictions or private industry.
 - e. Evacuation or Shelter-in-Place decisions for hazardous materials incidents will be determined by local authorities.

2. Phases of Management

a. Mitigation

- (1) Mitigation requires an understanding of the vulnerability to hazardous materials incidents.
- (2) Responsibility for starting and coordinating mitigation activities lies with the County Emergency Services Director.

b. Preparedness

- (1) Preparedness responsibility must be split between agencies of the state.
- (2) The required preparation of a local HAZMAT response plan, written by the LEPC, is a vital step in the preparedness phase.

c. Response

- (1) A jurisdiction's response will vary due to the decisions made in the Preparedness phase.
- (2) Overall coordination of a situation is exercised by the County Emergency Services Director, on the authority of the County Commission; as long as the incident remains at a local level.

d. Recovery

- (1) The recovery phase will be a continuation of the response phase for as long as it is deemed necessary by the County Emergency Services Director or other governmental/private authorities.
- (2) The recovery phase could be very lengthy, depending on the environmental impingement and the damage and could involve private industry and higher governmental agencies (WVOES, WVDEP, WVDOT, WVBPH, etc.). Authority in this phase could be placed in the hands of County government, Federal agencies, State agencies, or private concerns.

E. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Organization

- a. At the County-level, the County Commissioners and their appointed representative, the Emergency Services Director, will be the overall

coordinator of a HAZMAT incident with direction and control emanating from the county EOC. On scene command will be exercised in accordance with State law, by the ranking jurisdictional Fire Officer on-scene, using the Incident Command System (ICS) or a similar county structure.

2. Task Assignments

The State of West Virginia

The roles and responsibilities of State government are outlined in the West Virginia Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (SOP-2) and the WV Code, Chapter 15, Articles 5 and 5A.

F. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

1. The State of West Virginia

- a. West Virginia Code Chapter 15 Article 5, and Article 5A, as amended.

2. Federal Authorities

- a. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.
- b. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986.

3. References

- a. Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Guide, NRT-1, 1987.
- b. Criteria for Review of Hazardous Materials Emergency Plans, NRT-1A, 1988.
- c. Developing a Hazardous Materials Exercise Program, NRT-2, 1990.
- d. Digest of Federal Training in Hazardous Materials, FEMA 134, 1991.
- e. Analysis of Hazardous Materials Emergencies for Emergency Program Managers, SM-110, January 1985.
- f. 1996 North American Emergency Response Guidebook, DOT, 1996.
- g. Technical Guidance for Hazard Analysis, EPA, FEMA, DOT, 1987.

- h. Occupational Safety and Health Guidance: Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities. NIOSH/OSHA/USCG/ EPA, 1985.
- i. Site Specific Technical Guidance for Hazards Analysis: Emergency Planning for Extremely Hazardous Substances. EPA, FEMA, DOT, 1987.
- j. Preparedness for Hazardous Materials Emergencies in Railyards: Guidance for Railyards and Adjacent Communities, FEMA, September 1991.